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Title: Soil erosion by river Ganga and Padma.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter that is taking place in a number of districts in West Bengal. Sir, you must be aware that erosion along the banks of the rivers Padma and Ganges has been wreaking havoc in West Bengal. Already a number of villages have been wiped out by the scourge and ferocity of the river Padma. A number of villages are getting extinct from the map of West Bengal.

Sir, since the onset of monsoon, the situation has further been aggravated and in this scenario it is astonishing to note that the State Government of West Bengal ..* Under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and by her special initiative, Ganga-Padma scheme has been included as a national scheme.

However, the work has started only from this year. A fund of Rs.52 crore has been allotted from the coffers of the Central Government. ...*

MR. SPEAKER: If I object to this, you would say that I come from West Bengal. Every State Government is being abused here. We are converting this into a State Assembly, every one of us.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, you must acknowledge as a learned person â€¦

MR. SPEAKER: I have forgotten all learning!

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, relief and rehabilitation is a State subject and it is supposed to be taken care of by the State Government of West Bengal. ...*

I would urge upon the Central Government to persuade the State Government to take serious note of the sufferings of the common people.

MR. SPEAKER: Let all State matters be shown to me.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : In tandem with the State Government, the Central Government must bear the responsibility of the erosion problem, and provide adequate funds to the State Government so that the affected people can survive. Those people are living under the open sky. They do not have land to set up a thatched roof. This is the extent of the problem that is prevailing in district Murshidabad in West Bengal. In view of this serious situation, I would urge upon the Central Government to be more active and vigilant in respect of the situation in

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

district Murshidabad in West Bengal and to persuade the State Government of West Bengal to take serious note of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, only the irrigation matter.